



PRESS RELEASE

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MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO 72 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR CONSPIRING TO POSSES WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE

TUCSON, Ariz. –The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on February 10, 2005, Rito Castro-Parra, 63, of Mexico, was sentenced to 72 months imprisonment and 60 months of supervised release, by United States District Judge Frank R. Zapata, in Tucson.

On August 24, 2003, the defendant was arrested after he entered the United States from Mexico at the port of entry in Nogales, Arizona. Customs inspectors found cocaine hidden in the roof of Castro-Parra's vehicle. Castro-Parra said he was going to be paid \$15,000 dollars to drive the drugs to Phoenix. On September 17, 2003, the Grand Jury indicted Castro-Parra on 4 counts: Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute; Possession with Intent to Distribute; Conspiracy to Import and Importation.

Castro-Parra had entered a plea of guilty on January 6, 2004 to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine; Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine; Conspiracy to Import Cocaine; and Importation of Cocaine without any agreement.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The prosecution was handled by Gerard M. Guerin, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-1851-TUC-FRZ(GEE)

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